



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: We are seeking advice regarding whether a California license Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) is allowed to perform a non-invasive pulse oximetry on a California resident under the following circumstances: We represent a pharmacy specializing in respiratory medications who would like to either employ or enter into independent contractor agreements with RCPs. As part of the RCP's duties, the RCP would perform non-invasive pulse oximetry tests on patients whose treating physician has ordered such a test. The test results would be reported to the physician ordering the test. (1) Is the RCP allowed to perform non-invasive pulse oximetry testing on a patient as described above? (2) If the above-described situation is not allowed, what additional measures must be taken to comply with the California statutes, rules and regulations governing RCPs?

Response: Regarding licensed RCPs performing non-invasive pulse oximetry, please be advised that this is nearly verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act and allowed.

Reference # 2001-C-14